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 *Environmental Report*

Government Flying Service Environmental Report 2010

Foreword

This environmental report covers the environmental issues of the Government Flying Service (GFS) in 2010. In this report, we will focus on the key ways we work to help improve the environment and the direct environmental impact of our day-to-day departmental activities.

This report is primarily intended for Hong Kong residents, our various business partners, other government departments, our own staff and other stakeholders. We understand that a single environmental report will probably not be capable of fully satisfying the information needs and interests of such a diverse group. If you feel there are specific areas that the report should include, please let us know and we will try to take into account your views in our future reports.

1. What We Do

The Government Flying Service (GFS) is a disciplined services department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and is located at the south-western corner of the Hong Kong International Airport.

We provide the Hong Kong community with a wide range of flying services, including round-the-clock search and rescue coverage, casualty and medical evacuation, fire fighting and support to the law enforcement agencies and government departments. We also provide emergency services to the international air carriers within the Hong Kong Flight Information Region and international merchant ships using the shipping lanes within the Hong Kong Maritime Area of Responsibility.

The GFS has an establishment of 227 full-time civil servants as at 31 December 2010 responsible for operations, maintenance and administration. We operate a fleet of ten aircraft, namely three fixed-wing aeroplanes and seven helicopters to carry out the full range of flying services and support.

In 2010, the GFS flew a total of 5,475 hours. It assisted in 411 search and rescue operations, transported 1,493 people to hospital by helicopter and flew 8,616 government officers and official visitors. The recurrent expenditure of the GFS in 2010/11 is \$186 million.

2. Our Specific Job

Our major tasks are to:

- carry out search and rescue both over land and at sea;
- provide emergency air medical service;
- support the Hong Kong Police Force and other disciplined services in carrying out their law enforcement duties and training for such duties;
- assist in fighting fires and in responding to any other emergencies which threaten to life or property;
- carry out photography for aerial surveys; and
- carry such persons as the Secretary of Security may authorize as passengers.

3. Vision and Strategy on Green Management

The GFS will sustain its efforts to minimize the impact of its activities on the environment and provide the community with a safe, efficient and cost-effective search, rescue and aviation support services in an environmentally friendly manner.

4. Environmental, Health & Safety Policy

The GFS is committed to conducting operations in compliance with all environmental, health and safety requirements and regulations. The management is entrusted to providing a safe workplace for all our employees and customers.

The managers and supervisors in the GFS have the responsibility to ensure that every employee fully understands the safety policies and procedures applicable to his/her work area. The responsibility for safety and environmental practices follow the chain of command and supervisors will be held accountable for a subordinate's actions. The supervisors should provide all necessary training and instructions for their staff to perform their duties in an environmentally sound and safe manner. Supervisors will have their own safety and environmental performance included in their performance reviews.

Each employee has the responsibility to comply with the GFS work rules, and follow safe work practices and procedures established to protect the environment and the employees. All employees are asked to report to their supervisor all unsafe acts, hazardous conditions, and conditions which impact, or have the potential to impact the environment.

The Government Flying Service Environmental, Health and Safety Committee oversees the Government Flying Service environmental, health and safety policy and goals. It is also responsible for addressing certain topics, including but not limited to waste reduction, accident prevention and training programmes.

The Controller, Government Flying Service is personally committed to the continual improvement of our environmental, health and safety performance and will authorise actions necessary to achieve these objectives.

In 2010, the Committee continued to promote occupational safety and health as well as environmental protection.

5. Green Personnel

In the GFS, the Green Manager is responsible for overseeing the environmental issues of the department. He is assisted by the Green Task Force and Energy Wardens in implementing the GFS's Green Policy.

Green Manager

Mr Danny Wong, Aircraft Engineer (Electrical/Instrument)² was the Green Manager of the GFS with the following responsibilities:

- (a) implementing a programme of green housekeeping within the department;
- (b) introducing measures to increase staff awareness and involvement in relation to environmental issues; and
- (c) publicising the commitment to protecting the environment, formulating action plans and recording achievements.

He has provided a focal point for introducing, sustaining, reviewing and strengthening all environmental initiatives/activities. He was assisted by the Assistant Departmental Secretary in carrying out these duties.

Green Task Force

The GFS set up a Green Task Force in February 2003 with the main focus on energy conservation. The Green Task Force comprises representatives from the Operations, Engineering, Supplies and Administration Sections. They are responsible for liaising with staff members to explore possible options for saving energy without affecting the GFS operations and also discussing with the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) on how to make the proposals and ideas into effective measures.

Energy Wardens

Energy wardens from different sections have been appointed since January 2005. Their main duty is to inspect and ensure that the housekeeping measures for saving energy are complied with. For example, they assist in ensuring that the air-conditioning output at the corridor and lobby areas is always set at a "low cool" level in order to avoid unnecessary consumption of energy. They are also responsible for reminding colleagues to observe the energy saving measures.

6. Our Environmental Concerns and Initiatives

6.1 Aircraft Noise

We are very much concerned with the noise generated by our aircraft. Due to the nature of our flying services, such as casualty evacuation and support of law and order, it is not always possible to avoid flights where the noise may affect the public. Nevertheless, we have always been conscious of the need to conserve the environment and have taken various measures to protect the environment and minimize the noise nuisance caused to the public. Our measures include -

- (a) Higher transit height through the harbour

Unless there is an operational requirement, our helicopters will fly at 1,000 feet or above in the harbour to reduce the noise caused to the public.

- (b) Winding down of helicopter rotors

If a prolonged waiting time is expected, especially at a helipad in the urban area (e.g. Eastern Hospital rooftop), the helicopter rotors would be wound down to reduce the noise caused to the residents nearby. This can also help save fuel.

- (c) Flight scheduling

Different tasks are combined into one flight as far as possible to reduce the total flight time and fuel consumption.

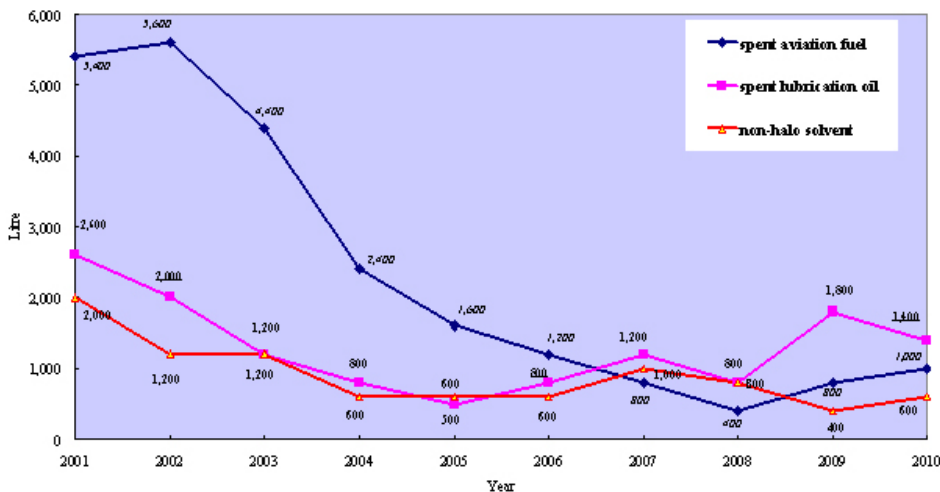


Pre-flight planning

6.2 Chemical Substances

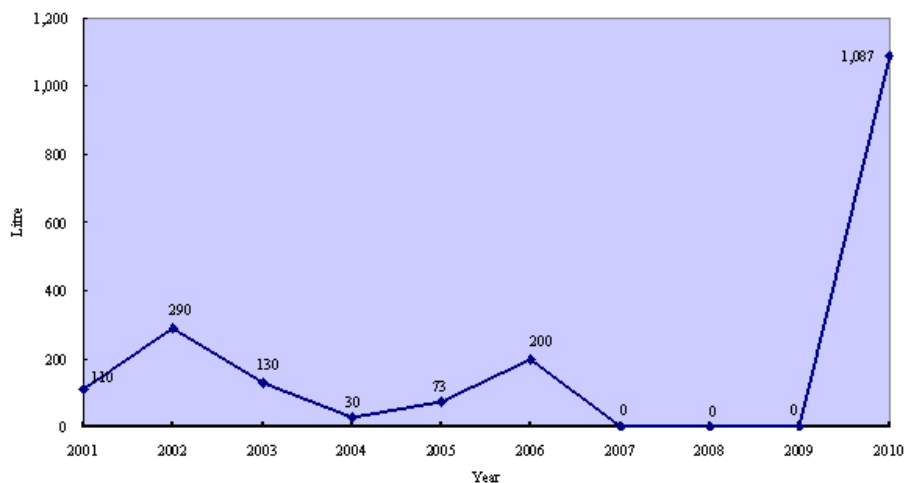
The common chemical substances used in the GFS for the maintenance of our fleet are cleaning solvent, aviation fuel (AVTUR), lubrication oil, grease and paints. These substances are used on a daily basis. The waste chemical substances are disposed of through licensed waste collectors approved by the Environmental Protection Department. The amount of spent oil and solvent disposed of in the past ten years is as follows -

Disposal of spent oil and solvent



For flight safety purpose, the GFS conducts fuel sample check for each storage tank and each aircraft daily. In the past, the GFS disposed of these fuel samples. To reduce the amount of chemical wastes, since 2005 the GFS filtered the fuel samples and re-used it for other purposes. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of spent aviation fuel. With a new aircraft, ZLIN 242L, came into operation in June 2009, more aviation fuel was used in 2010, resulting in the increase in the disposal of spent aviation fuel by 200 litres (25%) whereas that of spent lubrication oil has decreased by 400 litres (22%) when compared with 2009.

The 600 litres of non-halo solvent disposed of in 2010, an increase of 200 litres (50%) when compared with 2009, included some non-halo solvent which has been accumulated over the years pending approval for disposal. We had not disposed of it earlier because the Environmental Protection Department requires that chemical waste cannot be disposed of without the relevant material safety data sheet. We were able to obtain such data sheet and disposal approval in 2010.

Disposal of time-expired paint

We exert continuous effort for years to control the generation of time-expired paint at a low level. We have tried to use some of the aircraft paint waste for ground equipment maintenance with the aim of reducing the waste. There has been no disposal of time-expired paint from 2007 to 2009 because the amount was minimal. There will be savings in cost if the paint is disposed of in one lot. In 2010, we disposed of 1,087 litres of time-expired paint accumulated over the years, including those kept since 2003 pending acquisition of the relevant material safety data sheets and disposal approval.

The GFS reminds its staff regularly of the importance of the effective use of chemical and solvents in maintenance activities so as to further reduce the amount of chemical wastes.

6.3 Working with Other Government Departments in Environmental Protection

We work closely with other government departments in environmental protection. For example, our helicopters assist the Marine Department in conducting surveillance of floating refuse and oil pollution in Hong Kong waters. We also help in spraying oil dispersant over the sea when required.

Our helicopters also assist the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department in conducting a "Sky-shout" publicity exercise on hill fire prevention. On Sundays, public holidays and particularly Chung Yeung Festival and Ching Ming Festival, our helicopters help to disseminate the message of preventing hill fire to the public by flying above the countryside and playing pre-recorded voice messages through the loudhailers.

In addition, our aircraft carry officers of the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) to take aerial photographs of power stations and their surrounding environment for studies and analysis. We also assist EPD in conducting aerial inspections, surveys and monitoring of river catchments of Deep Bay and Mirs Bay on the spreading of wastewater plumes from major sewage outfalls. Our aircraft are also used to take aerial photographs for conducting site inspections and survey of existing waste facilities such as landfills and transfer stations as well as planning of special waste projects in the territories.



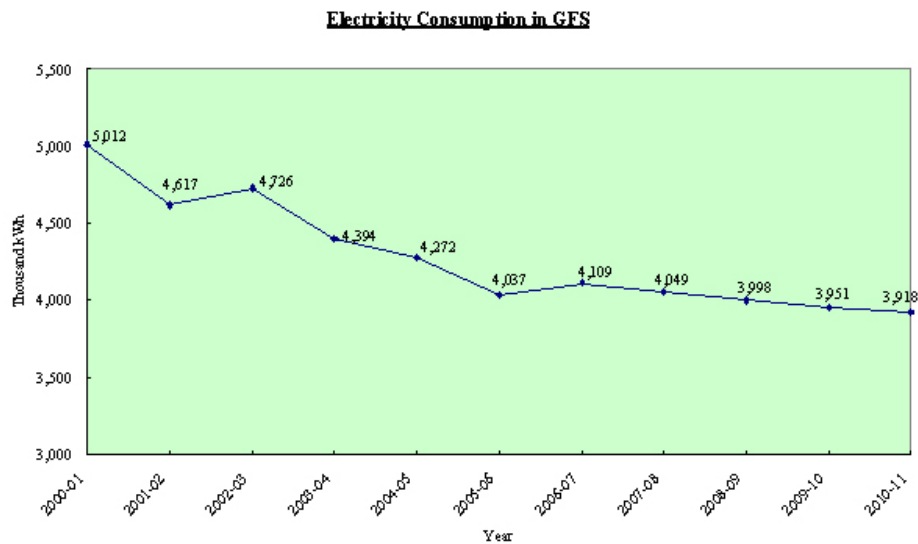
Helicopter in fire-fighting operation

6.4 Energy Use and Energy Savings Measures

The GFS is highly concerned about energy conservation. Through the implementation of different energy saving measures, we are able to achieve reduction in electricity consumption and to maintain the consumption at a low level. Compared to 2000-01, the GFS was able to reduce 1,094,000 kWh (or 21.8%) of electricity consumption in 2010-11. It represents a reduction of 590.76 tonnes in Greenhouse Gas emission (CO₂-equivalent).

It is the government's policy for each department to cut down the electricity consumption by 5% by 2013-14, using 2007-08 as the base year. In 2010-11, GFS was able to reduce the electricity consumption by 3.24% when compared to 2007-08.

The table below shows the electricity consumption in the GFS since 2000-01 -



To achieve the target of reducing energy consumption, we have adopted the following green housekeeping measures -

- setting all photocopier to energy saving mode when they are not in use for over 15 minutes;
- setting the room temperature at 25.5°C;
- suspension of the passenger lift;
- installation of solar films at the windows which are exposed to direct sunlight; and
- use of zoned lighting and switches.

The above measures are by no means exhaustive. We will continue to strive for energy saving.



Setting room temperature at 25.5°C



Suspension of the passenger lift



Solar films at the Air Command and Control Centre



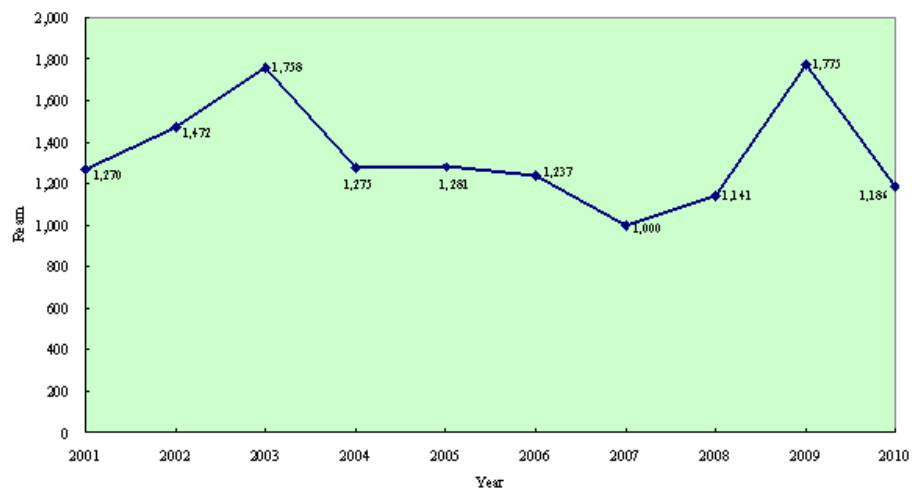
Zoned lighting

6.5 Paper Consumption

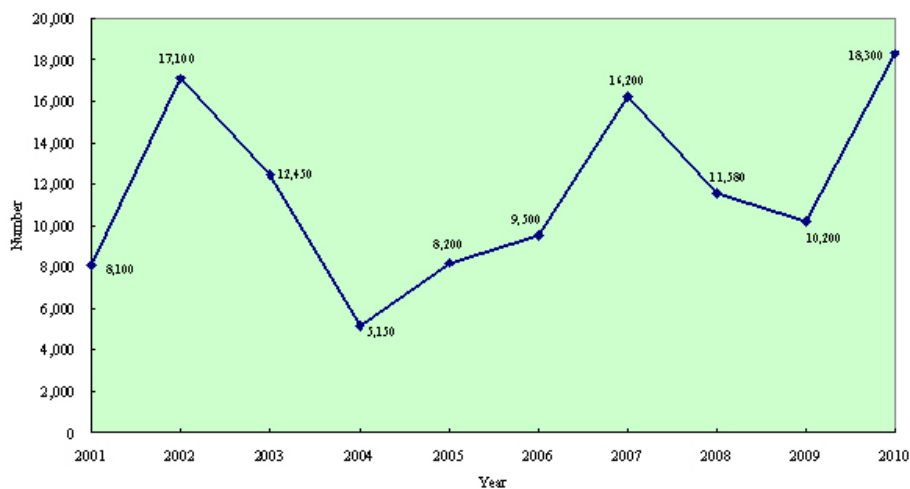
Compared to 2009, the consumption of paper has reduced by 33% whereas the consumption of envelope has increased by 79% in 2010. More envelopes were used for issuing letters to applicants for various recruitment exercises conducted in the year.

On the other hand, the waste paper collected for recycling in 2010 has increased by 93%, thus avoiding 16 tonnes of Greenhouse Gas emission. We will continue to closely monitor the use of paper and envelopes and promote the use of electronic communication, reuse of paper, envelopes and file jackets etc.

Paper Consumption



Envelope Consumption



6.6 Other Green Housekeeping Measures

The green housekeeping measures we have initiated/continued to implement in 2010 can be broadly grouped into the following categories:

- use of environmentally friendly lighting facilities, electrical appliances, stationery, office equipment and sundries items (e.g. bio-degradable plastic rubbish bags and rechargeable batteries);
- use of water purifiers to provide drinking water in the office in order to reduce the use of bottled water;
- replacing all plumbing appurtenance (e.g. water taps, urinals) with water saving devices;
- collection of recyclable materials (e.g. paper, aluminum cans, floppy diskettes, plastic bottles and toner cartridges);
- promotion of “Green” lifestyle through the issue of Green tips and e-newsletters and display of banner publicising various measures on waste reduction; and
- participation in environmental protection activities such as the Airport Community-wide Carbon Audit, Hong Kong International Airport Carbon Reduction Campaign, the Community Chest Green Day on 27-28 June 2010.



Rechargeable batteries and charger



Water purifier



Plumbing appurtenance with water saving devices

7. Aims for 2011

We will continue to encourage and remind our staff to practice and implement the various measures/programmes initiated in 2010 to help protect the environment. Our targets in 2011 are:

- to gradually reduce electricity consumption so as to achieve the government's target to cut down the energy consumption by 5% in 2013-14, using 2007-08 as the base year;
- to work closely with the EMSD in implementing more energy-saving measures (e.g. installation of solar films, use of LED light bulbs in Hanger etc) to reduce electricity consumption; and
- to continue to educate our officers on the awareness and importance of environmental protection. We will nominate staff to attend seminars on environmental protection topics organized by other government departments.

We will continue to monitor progress in the above areas and to foster a green culture in the department.

8. Information and Suggestions

For further information required or any suggestions, you may contact the Departmental Secretary of the GFS through:

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